



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI SAYS CONGRESS MUST RENEW, IMPROVE GLOBAL AIDS
RELIEF PROGRAM***

Washington D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today said that he is committed to renewing and improving the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR) to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria across the globe.

"Five years ago we established a program that has been very successful preventing and treating AIDS all over the world," Enzi said, at today's HELP Committee hearing titled "Meeting the Global Challenge of AIDS, TB, and Malaria." "Now, we have an opportunity to build and improve upon those efforts, and move from an emergency response plan to a sustainable program."

"Today, the hope of people living in nations torn apart by AIDS is again centered on us, and their belief that we will renew our commitment to fight HIV/AIDS. We must increase our assistance to the people of these countries so that their children and their children's children might be safe from these terrible diseases," he added, while calling for increased accountability in PEPFAR programs.

"As we take another look at a program that has been so successful, we must maintain a high level of accountability and measurable results," Enzi said. "Any additional flexibility in this program must be met with corresponding accountability to make sure our tax dollars are spent wisely and efficiently, and our fight against global AIDS is successful."

Enzi emphasized PEPFAR's numerous successes since its enactment: "Outreach programs that educate individuals about how to keep themselves HIV/AIDS-free have reached 61.5 million people. We have provided specialized drugs for over 500,000 pregnant women to prevent them passing their HIV status along to their children. We have provided live-saving treatments designed to resist viruses such as HIV for nearly 1.5 million men, women, and children."

Enzi said that to improve PEPFAR, Congress needs to pass legislation that will increase information-sharing and connections not only among those who are providing

HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment, but also between various AIDS programs and other key development programs.

“The global AIDS program must keep its focus on HIV/AIDS. However, it will be most successful if it is linked to programs that provide food, clean water, safe roads and transportation.”